

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A networked software dispensing vending machine comprising:
a bus;
a memory unit coupled with said bus for storing a software program;
a display device coupled with said bus;
a communications interface coupled with said bus for communicating
10 with a portable computer system;
a network interface coupled with said bus for communicatively coupling
with a remote network server;
a device coupled with said bus for receiving a payment for said software
program; and
15 a processor coupled with said bus for transferring said software program
to said portable computer system in response to said payment.
2. The networked software dispensing vending machine as recited in
Claim 1, wherein said communications interface is a wireless communications
20 interface.

3. The networked software dispensing vending machine as recited in Claim 1, wherein said remote network server transmits additional software to said network interface for storage on said memory unit.

5 4. The networked software dispensing vending machine as recited in Claim 1, wherein said display device displays an emulated portable computer system.

10 5. The networked software dispensing vending machine as recited in Claim 4, wherein said network interface communicates a backup configuration of said portable computer system to said remote network server.

15 6. The networked software dispensing vending machine as recited in Claim 5, wherein the configuration of said portable computer system is restored using said backup configuration.

20 7. The networked software dispensing vending machine as recited in Claim 5, wherein said display device displays, in conjunction with said backup configuration, an emulated version of said portable computer system.

8. The networked software dispensing vending machine as recited in Claim 1, wherein said remote network server archives an inactive software program for said portable computer system.

9. The networked software dispensing vending machine as recited in Claim 1, wherein said remote network server transmits an updated version of said software program to said portable computer system.

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10. A software dispensing vending machine comprising:

a bus;

a memory unit coupled with said bus for storing a software program;

a display device coupled with said bus;

10 a communications interface coupled with said bus for communicating with a portable electronic device;

a device for accepting a payment for said software program coupled with said bus; and

15 a processor coupled with said bus for transferring said software program to said portable electronic device in response to said payment.

11. The software dispensing vending machine as recited in Claim 10, wherein said communications interface is a wireless communications interface.

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12. The software dispensing vending machine as recited in Claim 10, further comprising a network interface for communicating with a remote network server.

13. The software dispensing vending machine as recited in Claim 12, wherein said remote network server transmits additional software to said network interface for storage onto said memory unit.

5 14. The software dispensing vending machine as recited in Claim 13, wherein said display device displays an emulated portable electronic device.

10 15. The software dispensing vending machine as recited in Claim 13, wherein said network interface transmits a backup configuration of said portable electronic device to said remote network server for storage thereon.

15 16. The software dispensing vending machine as recited in Claim 13, wherein said portable electronic device is restored using said backup configuration.

17. The software dispensing vending machine as recited in Claim 15, wherein said display device displays an emulated version of said portable electronic device using said backup configuration.

20 18. The networked software and service dispensing vending machine as recited in Claim 10, wherein said remote network server stores an inactive software program for said portable electronic device.

19. The networked software and service dispensing vending machine as recited in Claim 10, wherein said remote network server updates said software program.

5 20. A networked device for dispensing software comprising:
a bus;
a memory unit coupled with said bus for storing a software program;
a display device coupled with said bus;
a communications interface coupled with said bus for communicating
10 with a hand held computer system;
a network interface coupled with said bus for communicating with a network;
a device coupled with said bus for receiving a payment for said software program; and
15 a processor coupled with said bus for downloading said software program into said hand held computer system in response to said payment.

20 21. The networked device for dispensing software as recited in Claim 20, wherein said communications interface is a wireless communications interface.

22. The networked device for dispensing software as recited in Claim 20, wherein said network interface receives additional software from said network for storage on said memory unit.

5 23. The networked device for dispensing software as recited in Claim 20, wherein said display device displays an emulated hand held computer system.

24. The networked device for dispensing software as recited in Claim 23, wherein said network stores a backup configuration of said hand held computer system.

25. The networked device for dispensing software as recited in Claim 24, wherein said hand held computer system is restored using said backup configuration.

26. The networked device for dispensing software as recited in Claim 24, wherein said display device displays an emulated version of said hand held computer system using said backup configuration.

27. The networked device for dispensing software as recited in Claim 20, wherein said network stores an inactive software program transmitted by said hand held computer system.

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28. The networked device for dispensing software as recited in Claim 20, wherein said network transmits an updated version of said software program to said hand held computer system.

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